

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 STR-04
TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /085 W
-----312158Z 109178 /44

P R 311912Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9603
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: SUAREZ COMMENTS ON DISCUSSION OF HIS POSSIBLE CANDIDACY

REF: MADRID 2375

1. IN ALMOST IDENTICAL ACCOUNTS PRIME MINISTER ADOLFO SUAREZ WAS QUOTED BY DIARIO 16 MARCH 30 AND BY LOGOS NEWS AGENCY (IN THE CENTRIST YA AND THE CONSERVATIVE ABRIBA THE FOLLOWING DAY) TALKING INFORMALLY WITH REPORTERS ON WHAT WAS BECOME THE TOPIC OF THE MOMENT, HIS POSSIBLE CANDIDACY (AND ITS MODALITIES) IN THE COMING ELECTIONS. IN BOTH STORIES SUAREZ EXPRESSES SURPRISE THAT THE NEWSMEN
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HAVE NOT YET REALIZED WHAT HIS POSITIONS, WHICH HE DESCRIBES AS WAITING TO "MAKE THE PROPER DEDUCTIONS" INSISTING THAT HE WILL MAKE HIS DECISION KNOWN BUT NOT BEFORE THE TIME IS RIPE, AND ACKNOWLEDGING THAT HE HASN'T MUCH TIME LEFT, SUAREZ ASSERTS THAT IN THE MEANTIME HE IS RECEIVING A GREAT DEAL OF USEFUL ADVICE.

2. WHILE HIS REMARKS ARE IN THEMSELVES AS EVASIVE AS THEY HAD INEVITABLY TO BE, WE FIND IT INTERESTING THAT HE SPOKE WITH REPORTED AT ALL, THIS DEPARTURE FROM HIS NORMAL PRACTICE PROBABLY SHOWS THAT HE FELT IT NECESSARY TO RESPOND TO THE NEAR FRENETIC SPECULATION ABOUT HIS INTENTIONS AND THE RECENT SURGE OF CRITICISM AIMED AT HEADING HIM OFF FROM ANY ATTEMPT AT PARTISAN ACTIVITY IN THE ELECTIONS.

3. THESE CRITICISMS CONTUINED YESTERDAY WITH UNPRECEDENTED PUBLIC "DECNUNICATION" FROM WITHIN CENTRO DEMOCRATICO ITSELF WHEN MIGUEL BOYER (FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ'S PSF) WARNED IN A INTERVIEW WITH DIARIO 16, THAT:

THERE IS A GROWING REFUSAL TO ACCEPT ANY ATTEMPT BY THE GOVT TO EMPLOY IT RESOURCES IN FAVOR OF A GIVEN POLITICAL OPTION.

FEAR OF A STRONG SHOWING BY FRANGA'S ALIANZA POPULAR IS BEING MANIPULATED IN ORDER THAT PARTIES OF THE CENTER AND CENTER LEFT ACCEPT SUAREZ USE OF THE APPARATUS OF POWER IN THEIR FAVOR, "WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE ALIANZA DANGER IS A SERIOUS AS PORTRAYED".

F SUAREX'Z INTERVENTIONISTS INTENTIONS, ARE CONIRMED THEY WOULD PROVOKE DEPAETURES FROM "CENTRO DEMOCRATICO".

"PSD IS NOT DISPOSED TO SERVE THE FALSIFACTION OF THE POPULAR WILL". AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER PARTY PRESIDENT FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ REPORTEDLY SAID SUAREZ WOULD BE A "GOOD DRAWING CARD" FOR SOCIAL DEMOCRACY

4. IN THE SAME EDITION DAIRIO 16, WHICH TENDS TO BE PRO-SUAREZ WARNED THE PRIME MINISTER EDITORIALY THAT HE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAD GAINED THE RESPECT OF THE SPANISH THROUGH HIS EFFECTIVES PERFORMANCE IN BRINGING DEMOCRATIZATION BUT THAT HIS PRESTIGE WOULD BEGIN TO DECLINE IF HE TRIED TO MANIPULATE THE ECTORAL OUTCOME. THE PRIME MINISTER IS NOW HELD IN HIGH NATIONAL ESTEEM THAT HIS FALL WOULD BE ALL THE MORE CALAMITOUS".

5. THAKING A LESS ARTFUL TACK. THE WIDELY READ SISTER NEWSWEEKLY CAMBIO 16 HAS JUST COME OUT WITH ITS COVER DEPICTING SUAREZ IN NAPOLEONIC HAR AND POSE. THE HEADLINE "IJ IN CHAGRE HERE".EATON

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